



*Flathead Conservation District*  
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901  
Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077  
Web site: [www.flatheadcd.org](http://www.flatheadcd.org)

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### **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the February 27, 2017, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

#### **Board members present:**

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members absent:** John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Cynthia Ingelfinger and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Constanza Von Der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers; Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute; Tiffany Martin, River Steward; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM).

### **MINUTES**

Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2017, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email: Whitefish Planning Board meeting, March 16, 2017, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org>
  2. Email: Flathead Audubon March 2017 newsletter *The Pileated Post* <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org>
  3. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) Water Quality Mini-grant applications due February 28. Contact Ann McCauley, [www.swcdmi.org/programs/mini-grants](http://www.swcdmi.org/programs/mini-grants)
  4. Email: McCone Conservation District March 2017 newsletter *Conservation News* <https://mcconecountycd.com>
  5. Email: Rosebud & Big Horn Conservation Districts winter 2017 newsletter *Conservation Connection* <http://www.rosebudcd.com>
  6. Email: Custer County Conservation District March 2017 newsletter *Conservation Update* <http://www.custercountyconservationdistrict.org>
  7. Email: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking comments on proposed rule amendments regarding aquatic invasive species <http://musselresponse.mt.gov>
  8. Email: Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) February 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>
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- legislative updates *News from the Front* <http://macdnet.org>
9. Email: Range Improvement Loan Program. This is a low interest loan available to producers to help facilitate Range Improvements. The current rate is 3%, maximum loan is \$75,000 up to 10 year repayment schedule. Contact Bill Herbolich, DNRC 444-6686, or Stacey Barta, Rangeland Resource Program Coordinator, 406-930-0693 [sbarta@mt.gov](mailto:sbarta@mt.gov)
  10. Email: SWCDM February 15 issue of *The Montana Conservationist* <http://swcdm.org>
  11. Thank-you card from students at Helena Flats School for 2016/2017 Education Grant.

### **FINANCIAL**

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Byte Savvy \$240.00
2. CenturyLink \$262.25
3. MontanaSky Networks Inc. \$20.00
4. Philip H. Crissman \$625.00

Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

**RIVER STEWARD PROGRAM – Host Site Support Request:** Constanza Von Der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers, introduced Tiffany Martin, Big Sky Watershed Corp member who is working with the River Steward program. She reported Flathead Lakers, Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and Flathead Conservation District (FCD) are partners with the program, and asked if the FCD would be willing to help with host site support in the amount of \$2500.00. Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to provide \$2500 to the River Steward program to help fund the staff person.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**LOCAL AIS PROGRAM:** Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute, presented a request for support in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) educational materials, and reviewed the Whitefish Zebra Mussel Action plan and funding with the board. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to support Whitefish Lake Institute in the amount of \$5000 for work with AIS on the Whitefish Lake area.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Lori Curtis abstained from voting.*

Lori Curtis presented a request for written support of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) AIS grant application for their Mussel Response Initiative for Whitefish Lake. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to support the Whitefish Lake Institute grant proposal to DNRC.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Lori Curtis abstained from voting.*



### **NEW BUSINESS**

**FOYS BEND STREAM GAGE:** Discussion held regarding Flathead River Commission request for funding of the Foys Bend stream gage. Verdell Jackson stated that Flathead County and Audubon will be helping to fund the gage over the next 3 years. Lori Curtis made a motion “to support the request for discharge monitoring funds in the amount of \$10,000 for year one, with an option to support it the following two years; using 50% from the Settlement funds & 50% from Watershed Other.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**NW MONTANA FAIR AGREEMENT:** Cynthia Ingelfinger presented the Annual Exhibit Agreement for space at the 2017 NW Montana Fair. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to pay \$340 toward the fair booth and approve the agreement.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**WORK PLAN:** Cynthia Ingelfinger presented the 2017 Work Plan. Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion “to accept the 2017 Work Plan as updated and presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMPUTER NETWORK SERVICE AGREEMENT:** Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the Computer Service Agreement with Byte Savvy for one-year.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUDGET:** The January 2017 End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the January 2017 End of Month budget report.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS**

**NRCS REPORT:** Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:

#### ***EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)***

- February 24 – Sign up deadline for Special Initiatives
- 19 total applications
- June 16 – Deadline for all 2017 contract obligations

#### ***OTHER***

- Western MT Grazing and Ag. Conference – February 9-10, Missoula
- Free the Seeds event – March 4 at Flathead Valley Community College
- Snow Report

**STAFF REPORT:** Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger submitted the following:

#### ***District Office and Outreach***

1. February advertisements: Cost share program & Sandbagging 310
2. We continue to facilitate communication among Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Don MacIntyre, Caitlin Overland (Flathead County Attorney’s office), and the representatives for the landowner and the complainants in regard to the Stalowy 310. We processed the first round of new information/rebuttal information (deadline was Jan 25<sup>th</sup>), and released it for public review on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. The second



deadline for new or rebuttal information was Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Valerie added several maps to the Flathead Conservation District (FCD) exhibits. We processed all the new information and made it available for public review before Feb 22. In addition, all new information was distributed in an electronic format to interested individuals or organizations. The hearing will be on March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 P.M. at the Red Lion Hotel in Kalispell. Two complete copies of the exhibit files will be available to supervisors for the hearing.

3. Valerie worked with Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), Don MacIntyre, Tara Fugina (County Attorney's office), and Tim Birk to complete an office lease agreement with MACD and a sublease consent with Tim Birk. Samantha Tappenbeck (Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana – SWCDM) began working in her new space on Feb 1.
4. Cynthia and Valerie attended the Inter-Agency meeting on Feb 1.
5. Staff drafted and edited the 2017 FCD Work Plan. The time supervisors spent reviewing and discussing it is greatly appreciated.
6. Valerie drafted a letter to the Flathead Land Trust regarding FCD's financial contribution to the North Shore Erosion Control Project.
7. Cynthia and Valerie attended the Flathead Conservation Roundtable on Feb 8. Valerie presented an overview of FCD's activities and responsibilities.
8. Cynthia attended the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) meeting on Feb 2. The meeting focused on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Rail safety, and Lake County's Swan Conservation Forest Study.
9. Cynthia attended the Flathead Community of Resource Educator's (CORE) Interactive augmented reality sandbox tour at Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC). It is an educational tool being developed and used by Lake County CD, FVCC and Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).
10. Cynthia attended the Western MT Grazing and Agriculture Conference in Missoula on Friday, Feb 10.
11. Cynthia has submitted content on 310 Law and the role of Conservation Districts to Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) for the Lake Book 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
12. Cynthia is working with Holly McKenzie on a Project Learning Tree (PLT) Spring into Nature Educator Workshop on Saturday, April 8, 9-4 P.M. We have developed a flyer, agenda and registration form.

**Legislative:** Cynthia and Valerie traveled to Helena on Jan 24-25 for the MACD legislative meet and greet. While there, we also met with personnel from DEQ, MACD, and DNRC. We toured the invasive mussel response center, the new DNRC building, and the capital. The *meet and greet* was an excellent opportunity to meet legislators from around the state, as well as staff and supervisors from other conservation districts. Valerie continues to relay legislative updates from MACD to the board and staff.

**River Steward/River to Lake Initiative:** Valerie attended the River Steward meeting on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. The partners discussed Tiffany Martin's plan of work for her 2017 term. The River Steward restoration video, initiated by Constanza von der Pahlen (Flathead Lakers) last summer and filmed last fall, is in the final stages of editing.



**Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP):** The WRP is in final editing and will be completed and sent in to DEQ before the end of February.

**Weed Workshop:** Cynthia is working on outreach for the Weed Management Workshop. Arrangements have been made with FVCC to host the event, which will be on March 1<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. There will be presentations from Dawn LaFleur (Glacier National Park), Kima Caddell (Dept. of Agriculture), and Pat McGlynn (Montana State University Extension) followed by questions and answers. We will have information tables set up in the back as well.

**MACD REPORT:** Pete Woll reported he received a call from MACD today regarding legislation on the Creston bottling plant with a request for feedback. Verdell Jackson noted Bob Keenan is carrying two bills. Ronald Buentemeier stated FCD does not have jurisdiction over water rights; Pete Woll noted that the only area FCD would have jurisdiction would be (for a 310 permit) at the discharge point into the existing stream. Discussion held.

**FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT:** Dean Sirucek reported the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting agenda included legislative issues, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) update, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) update regarding oil trains through the Middle Fork and safety plans, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issues and grant. The next meeting is April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD (FCPB):** Dean Sirucek reported the last meeting agenda included a zone change on West Spring Creek Road –sent to County Commissioners with a positive vote; and public hearing on short term rental housing performance standards – tabled until next FCPB meeting.

**WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD:** No report.

**HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL:** Cynthia Ingelfinger reported the next meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION:** Verdell Jackson reported the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda mainly included discussion of the Foy's Bend Stream gage.

**SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT:** Lori Curtis reported the book has not come from the printer yet.

**CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL (CFBC):** Clark Fork Task Force name has been changed to Clark Fork Basin Council. Verdell Jackson reported a teleconference was held last week regarding funding and agenda development for a meeting in April.



**MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- **BANK AGREEMENT**
- **WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- **DECLARATORY RULING HEARING, PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**
- **TOPOG MAPS:** Ronald Buentemeier asked Cynthia Ingelfinger to get full sets of maps for Flathead County for the years 1892, 1914 and 1994.
- **THOMPSON RIVER WATER RESTORATION PLAN (WRP)**  
Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, stated she wanted the district to be aware of the WRP for the Thompson River drainage. McGregor Creek is a listed stream in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) planning area. The stream is within Flathead County and under jurisdiction of the Flathead Conservation District. Brita Olson, coordinator for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group, is the lead on WRP efforts, and Sarah Bowman has been hired to write the WRP. Samantha noted if the board had any input, she could facilitate communication and be a conduit for the process. Discussion held. Samantha will email further information. This will be placed on the March 13<sup>th</sup> 310-Stream Permit meeting agenda.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dean Sirucek made a motion “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

***Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:***

<b><u>3/13/2017</u></b>	<b><u>Ronald Buentemeier</u></b>	<b><u>Chairman</u></b>
<b>(Date)</b>	<b>(Signature)</b>	<b>(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)</b>

